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TEXT OF CIA REPORT

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Ambassador Herve Alphand, Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry, said on August 28, 1967, that it was the conclusion of his government that the Vietnam war cannot be won and that the only solution is an American initiative for a ceasefire and a complete withdrawal over a period of two years. The withdrawal should be accompanied by guarantees for the integrity of both North and South Vietnam, and these guarantees, as well as the ceasefire, should be supervised by a consortium of nations organized for the purpose.

Alphand said his government was in touch with the Hanoi government and also with representatives of the Viet Cong in Algeria and Phnom Penh. The French government, therefore, believes that the proposition Alphand is describing would not be unacceptable to North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. The war cannot be won because Ho Chi Minh is prepared to take any punishment that can be meted out, including even the destruction of Hanoi, and because the North Vietnamese are willing to live in the hills for years rather than capitulate. At the same time, the Hanoi government would want a guarantee of the integrity of North Vietnam because it fears the Chinese. A supervised ceasefire and a withdrawal with guarantees of integrity might eventually result in a combined Vietnam, but probably not for a period of at least fifteen years.

Alphand expressed the opinion that an approach such as he described would bring about results. He considered that previous gestures by the American President had always been accompanied by conditions and that the only proposal that would work would be a simple proposal which would involve ceasefire, timed withdrawal, and supervised guarantees of integrity.

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